

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00172 230335Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3338
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA, OVIP (TRUDEAU, PIERRE)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: OTTAWA 610

1. THE PROVINCE OF FEBRUARY 22 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE
"WE WILL KEEP CANADA UNITED--TRUDEAU." ACCOMPANYING NEWS REPORT
STATES THAT PM TRUDEAU MADE PLEDGE FOR MAINTENANCE OF UNITY
DURING TOASTS AT WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER ON FEBRUARY 21.
ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID DURING CTV
INTERVIEW THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN
REGARDING CANADIAN UNITY THAT WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON U.S.
AND THAT PERSONALLY HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE CONFEDERATION MAINTAINED.
2. PROVINCE EDITORIAL OF FEB. 22 STATES THAT THREAT OF QUEBEC
SEPARATISM HAS MADE AMERICANS "REALLY SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE.
AND WELL IT SHOULD." EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT PQ ELECTION WIN HAS

UNDERMINED CANADA'S SELF-CONFIDENCE, THAT QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE COULD
NEVER BE "SMOOTHLY ACHIEVED," THAT DISTRUST MAY ANIMATE INTERNAL
CANADIAN RELATIONSHIPS FOR A LONG TIME, "WHETHER QUEBEC LEAVES OR
STAYS," AND THAT THE U.S. WILL RIGHTLY "WANT ASSURANCE FROM
MR. TRUDEAU THAT CANADIAN UNITY AND THEREFORE AMERICAN SECURITY IS
NOT ENDANGERED BY THE PQ." EDITORIAL COUNSELS THAT THERE ARE NO
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EASY ANSWERS TO U.S. CONCERNS AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS
ADVISERS WILL HAVE TO SHOW "GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF AND GREAT
PATIENCE" WITH CANADIANS AND FOR NOTHING TO "UPSET THE DELICATE
BALANCE" IN CANADA. SIMILARLY, EDITORIAL WARNS THAT TRUDEAU
MUST NOT USE HIS VISIT TO U.S. "TO SCORE IN HIS FIGHT WITH MR.
LEVESQUE, AT LEAST NOT OVERTLY." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT
TRUDEAU CAN GIVE PRESIDENT CARTER NO ASSURANCE ON QUEBEC SEPARATISM

UNTIL THE ISSUE HAS BEEN SETTLED BY REFERENDUM OR ANOTHER
ELECTION. "UNTIL THEN THE WORD IS CAUTION."

3. REMAINDER OF EDITORIAL PAGE OF FEBRUARY 22 CONSISTS OF NEW
YORK TIMES REPORTS COMMENTING ON FUTURE OF U.S. -CANADA RELATIONS
AND LACK OF APEAL OF AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC TO AMERICAN INVESTORS,
AND SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICE REPORTING ON U.S. "GOOD WILL GESTURE"
IN CUTTING OFF FUNDS FOR THE GARRISON PROJECT AND HOW SORRY STATE
OF CANADIAN FINANCES IS CAUSING U.S. TO CAST "QUIZZICAL EYE"
ON CANADA'S CREDIT RATING.

4. CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO EUR/CAN AND EMBASSY.
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